# TPACK Learning Activity Two : Connect This! Katie Finkenbine

* Describe the activity
  + Activity One: Connecting
  + Students will be given a list of reading level appropriate picture books. The students will choose a book during literacy center time. Choosing the books while in assigned groups will help me to ensure each student receives a book that is at the correct reading level. Each student will read the book and create a connection poster for each connection (Text-to Self, Text-to Text, and Text-to-World) describing the connections they made. Each poster will describe the connection made. Students will work on this assignment individually but will be allowed to discuss ideas with students at their cooperative table group. Students would then be required to blog about their connections and respond to others on kidblog.org. I will model how to blog and have practice question for the students to answer. The practice question will allow students to respond to one another. The students will be given the scheduled computer time to work on the blogging portion and will also have the option to blog at home.
* Learning objective
  + As a result of this activity my fourth grade students will be able to practice and implement the reading comprehension strategy of making connections. Students will be able to make a connection to a given story and will reflect on others connections. By the end of this activity students will also respond to others opinions
* Technology Integration
  + By blogging their opinions students will be given ownership of their own learning process. Using a blogging site will spark interest of students. Students will be able to see the thought process of fellow classmates which will set an example for students who are struggling with the concept. I believe using this type of technology will make the concept of making connections more visible to the students. Making connections can be a difficult concept for students to grasp but having the opportunity to see what others are thinking will make the concept more visible. This technology is a great way for the teacher to ease along and monitor the discussion process. The use of the blogging site makes the instructional process more engaging for my students, which will allow me to make sure my students understand the concept fully.
* Connection to Standards
  + I will address the flowing Michigan GLCEs for fourth grade
    - **R.MT.04.01** self-monitor comprehension when reading or listening to text by automatically applying and discussing the strategies used by mature readers to increase comprehension including: predicting, constructing mental images, visually representing ideas in text, questioning, rereading or listening again if uncertain about meaning, inferring, summarizing, and engaging in interpretive discussions.
    - **R.CM.04.01** connect personal knowledge, experiences, and understanding of the world to themes and perspectives in text through oral and written responses.
    - **R.CM.04.03** explain relationships among themes, ideas, and characters within and across texts to create a deeper understanding by categorizing and classifying, comparing and contrasting, or drawing parallels across time and culture.
    - **R.AT.04.01** be enthusiastic about reading and do substantial reading and writing on their own.
  + I will be addressing the following Technology Standards:
    - **Communication and Collaboration**: Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others
    - **Digital Citizenship**: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior
* Student Prior Knowledge
  + I will be teaching a mini lesson on making connections and why this is an imprint strategy. In order to assess my students’ knowledge on what it means to blog I will have the students write what they think the word blog means on a sticky note. After writing a definition in his/her own words they will place the sticky on an anchor chart that will hang for the duration of the lesson. I will use the information that the students recorded on the sticky notes to direct my lesson.
  + During this activity I will be walking around to troubleshoot any problems the students may have. I will also be actively monitoring and responding to what the students write. My response will help to engage and move conversations forward.
* Content Knowledge
  + I am a Language Arts major and have taught at he elementary level for four years. I am not an expert but I am very confidant in my knowledge of teaching this strategy. I have a passion for literacy and this shows through my teaching. As a teacher it is necessary for me to be aware of the standards and learning expectations of my students. Since I am incorporating the use of kidblog.org it is necessary for me to be completely knowledgeable in the use of this site because I will be the one answering any questions.
* Pedagogical Knowledge
  + My students are primarily English Language Learners and I feel as if this engaging activity will allow for this concept to be easier to comprehend. Seeing responses in written form will aid in full compression of this particular strategy. Hands on approaches to concepts allow my students to see the strategy at work.
* Technology Knowledge
  + I am not a blogger but I do enjoy reading them. I plan to show student friendly blogs as an example. I have familiarized myself with kidblog.org and have found the site a great tool for educators and easy to troubleshoot. I have taken the additional time to play around with the site and now feel comfortable in using this type of technology with this lesson.
* TPACK Analysis
  + Making different types of connections can be very difficult for students to grasp. Knowing that majority of my students are primarily ELL students I decided to bring this concept to life for my students. Using technology will allow me to reach my students where traditional teaching methods would not be able.
* Assessment Plan
  + I will be assessing the students’ use of making connections with the aid of a rubric. I will use the rubric to grade the posters. The use of the rubric will help me in assuring learning objectives were met. I will not be assessing the students’ use of technology because in this activity the technology is being used as a tool to meet the objective.